

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06974 161858Z

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1053

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6974

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OAS

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-ON FROM THE QUITO MFM

REF: STATE 252031

FOR DEP SEC INGERSOLL AND ASST SEC ROGERS

1. SUMMARY: CHILEAN OAS REP IS SUGGESTING TO HIS GOVT ADOPTION OF
SPEICIAL PROTOCOL TO PERMIT TERMINATION OF ANTI-CHUBAN
SANCTIONS BY SIMPLE MAJORITY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHILEAN OAS REP AMB MANUEL TRUCCO DISCCUSED WITH
ME NOV 15 SITUATION WHICH EXISTS AS RESULT OF OUTCOME
OF QUITO CONFERNCE, REFERRING TO MAY OF THE ELEMENTS CONTAINED
IN FIRST PORTION OF REFTEL. TRUCCO WAS OF COURSE HAPPY
THAT CHILE HAD AVODIDED ISOLATION, AND EXPRESSED FULL
UNDERSTANDING OF THE REATIONALE FOR THE USG POSITION AT QUITO,
BUT WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED REGARDING FUTURE OF THE RIO
TREATY AND THE OAS SYSTEM -- WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS A FAR
MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION THAN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN RE
CUBA. ON THE LATTER, HE FLET THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED
UNDER THE RIO TREATY HAD IN THEMSELVES CEASED TO HAVE ANY SUBS-
TANTIAL MEANING EXCEPT AS REGARDS THE US. HE BELIVED IT WOULD
BE DESIRABLE TO CREATE A LEGAL BASIS FOR GIVING THE
US FREEDOM OF ACTION WITH RESPECT TO CUBAN SANCTIONS.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 06974 161858Z

3. UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND, HOWEVER, WAS HIS CONVICTION THAT IF THE RIO TREATY AND THE OAS SYSTEM WERE TO COLLAPSE, THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE WOULD BE FORCED TO RELY COMPLETELY ON BILATERAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR SECURITY. IN CHILE'S AREA RESULT WOULD PROBABLY BE TO STIMULATE A SOUTHERN CONE ALLIANCE IN WHICH, IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUED, ARGENTINA AS WELL AS BRASIL MIGHT BE JOINED. TRUCCO DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS MADE ELSEWHERE IN THE HEMISPHERE WOULD PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR EXISTING HEMISPHERE SECURITY STRUCTURE.

4. IN TURCCO'S OPINION, ONE SOURCE OF THE PRESENT DIFFICULTY RE CUBA LIES IN WHAT HE CONSIDERS MISUSE OF THE RIO TREATY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS. IN HIS VIEW TREATY WAS DESIGNED TO MEET CONTINGENCY OF DIRECT ARMED ATTACK ("A PERAL HARBOR CASE") AND NOT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY SUCH AS THAT WHICH IN 1964 PROVOKED ANTI-CUAN SANCTIONS. CHILE HAD SIAD AS MUCH AT THE TIME. BUT THE DAMAGE HAD NOW BEEN DONE, AND QUESTION WHICH REMAINED WAS HOW BEST TO SAVE THE TREATY AND THE SYSTEM. SINCE CASTRO HAD MADE NOT A SINGLE GESTURE LOOKING TOWARD CONTINENTAL DETENTE OR RAPPROCHMENT, HE WAS NOT PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CUBAN ASPECT.

5. TRUCCO SAID HE WAS PUTTING TO HIS MINISTER A SUGGESTION THAT AT NEXT MEETING OF OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REORGANIZATION OF THE SYSTEM, NEXT WEEK, APROPOSAL SHOULD BE MADE FOR TERMINATING SANCTIONS MEASURES ADOPTED UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF RIO TREATY, BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE RATHER THAN TWO-THIRDS. HE HOPED THIS COULD BE DONE THROUGH A SPECIAL PROTOCOL WHICH WOULD GAIN PROMPT RATIFICATION, AND THAT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER THE SIMPLE MAJORITY WHICH HAD BEEN FORGED AT QUITO COULD PROCEED TO END HE ANTI-CUBAN SANCTIONS.

6. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I RAISED QUESTION WHETHER GOC WOULD WISH TO BE IN FOREFRONT IN PROPOSING A PROCEDURAL STEP WHICH, WHILE APPARENTLY USEFUL IN TERMS OF PERSERVING RIO TREATY STRUCTURE AMD OAS, WOULD SO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 06974 161858Z

OBVIOUSLY CONTRIBUTE TO DISMATLING WHAT WAS LEFT OF HEMISPHERE'S ANTI-CUBAN POSTURE. TRUCCO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE COULD PERSUADE FONOFF AND JUNA TO AGREE.

7.COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I AM NOT SUFFICIENTLY KNOWLEDGEABLE REGARDING OAS TO EVALUATE PROSPECTS FOR TRUCCO'S PLAN, IT WOULD IF FEASIBLE APPEAR TO OBIATE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENVISAGED IN PARA 2 REFTEL. AS INDICATED

ABOVE, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE GOC TAKING THE
LEAD IN THIS MATTER. BUT IF IT IS USEFUL IN ITS OWN
TERMS, THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF OTHER STATES WILLING
TO STEP INTO THE FOREFRONT.
POPPER

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